

## **Edinburgh Fund Managers Group plc Retirement and Death Benefits Plan**

### **Annual Engagement Policy Implementation Statement**

#### **Introduction**

This statement sets out how, and the extent to which, the Engagement Policy in the Statement of Investment Principles ('SIP') produced by the Trustee has been followed during the year to 30 June 2020. This statement has been produced in accordance with The Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service) and Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations 2018 and the guidance published by the Pensions Regulator.

#### **Investment Objectives of the Plan**

The objective over the lifetime of the Plan adopted and included in the SIP is as follows:

To make sure that we can meet our obligations to the beneficiaries of the Plan.

#### **Policy on ESG, Stewardship and Climate Change**

Given that the majority of the assets are invested in an annuity contract; the Trustee has decided it is no longer relevant to adopt a policy on these issues. This was last reviewed in September 2018.

However, the Trustee has reviewed the engagement of their investment manager relating to the remaining assets which are invested in a Diversified Growth Fund.

#### **Engagement**

- The Trustee has reviewed their investment manager's compliance with the principles of the UK Stewardship Code as part of this statement and will continue to do so annually. The Plan's investment manager confirmed that they are signatories of the current UK Stewardship Code and plan to submit the required reporting to the Financial Reporting Council by 31 March 2021 in order to be on the first list of signatories for the UK Stewardship Code 2020 that took effect on 1 January 2020. The Trustee will continue to engage with their manager on the UK Stewardship Code and its relevance.

#### **Voting Activity**

The Trustee has delegated their voting rights as necessary within the Diversified Growth Fund to the investment manager.

The Trustee does not use the direct services of a proxy voter.

Over the 12 months to 30 June 2020, the key voting activity on behalf of the Trustee is as follows:

- Aberdeen Standard Investments ("ASI") directly engages with companies and does not use a third party to vote on its behalf
- The key voting activity for the fund was as follows:

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<b>Fund</b>	<b>Votable meetings attended</b>	<b>Number of meetings where vote was cast</b>	<b>Percentage of meetings with opposing vote</b>	<b>Number of votes against management</b>
ASI Diversified Growth Fund	249	239	48%	393

- Over the 12 months to 30 June 2020, the Trustee did not challenge the manager on its voting activity.

**Approved by Aberdeen Pension Trustees Limited, Trustee of Edinburgh Fund Managers Group plc Retirement and Death Benefits Plan, for the annual Trustee Report & Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2020**

**17 December 2020**